

East Asian Studies

Fall 2023

Program and Department Newsletter

New Graduate Students

Nathaniel Gallant (COM) is a first-year PhD student in the Department of Comparative Literature. He holds a BA in South Asian Studies and Comparative Literature, as well as an MA in Japanese Studies from the University of Michigan. His research follows the entanglement of Buddhist thought, literary discourse, and the politics of translation in East Asia. His master's research explored the Buddhist concepts, genres, and narrative forms that shaped the emergence of the modern literary subject in Japan. His doctoral project is a multi-disciplinary exploration of karma's afterlives across literary, philosophical, and aesthetic discourses of embodiment in East Asia—specifically, how literary forms shaped by Buddhism responded to shifting conceptions of the karmic body before and after modernity. Prior to Princeton, Nathaniel was a visiting researcher at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan, and an editor at Penguin Random House, Kodansha, and *Tricycle: a Buddhist Review*.

Lauren Gatewood (EAS) is a PhD student in early modern Japanese literature. She is specifically interested in the ways authors use creative visual techniques in dialogue to represent various aspects of their characters in Edo period (1600-1868) popular fiction. Prior to joining Princeton, Lauren received a BA in Japanese Language and Literature and in Visual Art from Dartmouth College and an MS in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. She taught high school Japanese and visual art before receiving her MA in East Asian Languages and Cultures (Japanese) from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Sarah Sklar (EAS) is a PhD student in early Japanese history. She is interested in kingship and systems of succession in the Asuka and Nara periods. Prior to joining Princeton, Sarah completed an MPhil in Traditional East Asia at the University of Oxford, where she researched female succession in ancient Japan. She received her B.A. in Japanese from SOAS University of London.

Mohan Wang (EAS) or Moh-harn Wang if one is familiar with the Gwoyue Romatzyh, Chinese: 王沫涵, is a PhD student in early Chinese literature and political culture. His research interests primarily pertain to historiographies

and the presentation of ethnographical knowledge. His broader interests include historical narratives, ancient poetics, political expressions in early poetry, and, most importantly, comparative Sino-Roman antiquity. Prior to joining Princeton, Mohan received his BA in Classics from the University of California, Berkeley, and his MA in Humanities from the University of Chicago, where he explored the literary world constructed by ethnographic information in the *Hanshu* and Pliny the Elder's *Naturalis Historia*.

Dajian You's (EAS) research interests focus on LGBTQ+ issues, social isolation, social minorities, and anything related to social problems in modern Japanese society. His MSc dissertation examined the same-sex partnership certificate system in Japan to gain a deeper understanding of its implementation and corresponding social consequences to LGBTQ+ individuals in modern Japanese society.

Jiawen Zeng (EAS) Jiawen Zeng's research interests focus on religion, spatiality, and the peripheries in medieval ~ modern Japan. Prior to coming to Princeton, Jiawen spent two years in Kyoto conducting research on *Kanmon Nikki*.

Ingrid Vera (REL) and **Sagar Rao** (REL) are both new PhD students of Asian Religions in the Department of Religion.

New Faculty

Carolyn Choi (Effron Center) joins Princeton from Northern Arizona University and UCLA's Center for Korean Studies. She holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Southern California with a designated emphasis in gender and sexuality studies; an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics and Political Science in the sociology of crime, control, and globalization; and a B.A. from the University of California-Los Angeles in sociology and comparative literature (Korean literature concentration).

Tae Na Kim (KOR) holds a PhD in Korean Education from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. She serves as Outreach Director on the Executive Board of the International Network for Korean Language and Culture. With a diverse teaching background, including Sogang University's Language Education Center, she

tailors her approach to various learners, including exchange students and immigrants. Tae Na Kim's has also served at language education at Hankuk University and Middlebury College's Summer Language Program.

Wei Peng 彭曄 (SPIA & AEE) is an assistant professor at Princeton University, with a joint appointment between the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment. Her research uses computational models to quantify difficult tradeoffs of climate policy across social, political, and environmental aspects. Dr. Peng currently leads two main projects: i) realistic energy transition pathways, and ii) health effects of deep decarbonization. Prior to joining Princeton, she was an assistant professor of international affairs and civil and environmental engineering at Penn State University. She received her PhD in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy from Princeton University and her bachelor's degree in environmental science from Peking University, China. She was also a Giorgio Ruffolo Post-Doctoral Fellow and a Research Associate at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Zheyu Su 苏哲宇 (CHI) Zheyu Su is a Lecturer at Princeton University, starting in the Fall of 2023. He is currently pursuing his PhD in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research interests encompass early Chinese history, early Chinese literature, and early Confucianism, with a particular focus on the Disciples of Confucius for his dissertation. Su received his MA in Chinese Literature and Culture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his BA from Nanjing University. Prior to joining Princeton, he taught different levels of Chinese language courses and Chinese literature courses during his graduate studies. In addition to his teaching and research, Su has participated in the translation of Sima Qian's *Shiji* (The Grand Scribe's Records) under the guidance of Professor William Nienhauser since 2016, contributing two chapters to the recently released volumes of this translation project.

Anna Yu Wang (MUS) Anna Yu Wang is a music theorist and ethnographer working to understand what it means—and what it takes—to listen across lines of difference. Her research brings music

analysis, field research, and examination of historical and archival sources together to wrestle with aesthetic, sociocultural, and ideological questions that confront music studies in global contexts. Yu Wang's current book project, *More than Structure: Musicality Across Two Sinitic Operas*, analyzes musical sounds and listener testimonies from 黄梅戏 *huangmei* opera and 歌仔戲 Taiwanese opera communities to propose that experiencing the musicality behind tonal, metric, and formal structures is none other than to learn to adopt local (and at times, paradoxical) habits of worldmaking. She is interested in charting a novel methodology for a global-facing music theory that would emulate rather than stabilize the creative tensions inherent in its objects of study.

Xiaoyu Xia 夏小雨 (SOF) is a scholar of modern Chinese literature. Her current book project explores the visual, material, and media transformations of Chinese literary culture in a transnational context of East Asian and global typographic modernity. She received her BA and MA in Chinese Literature at Fudan University and her PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures at UC Berkeley (with Designated Emphasis in Film and Media). Currently a Cotsen Postdoctoral Fellow in the Princeton Society of Fellows, she is teaching EAS 239 "Modern Chinese Poetry" this Fall and will join the HUM sequence teaching team in Spring 2024.

Junko Yamazaki's (EAS) research is broadly centered on film, media aesthetics, and practices of technological and cultural mediation, especially regarding the questions of the history and politics of sensory life. She has explored these questions by primarily examining 1950s and 1960s Japanese film aesthetics. She is particularly interested in the significance of film spectatorship in postwar Japan, which emerged as a transformative force for social change, propelled by the thorny question of reckoning with the legacies of the past in the present. Her current book project investigates the postwar revival of *jidaigeki*, a category of film that emerged in the early 1920s and that gradually came to refer to period films set prior to Japan's Meiji Restoration of 1868. She received her PhD in the joint-degree program in the departments of Cinema & Media Studies and East Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago.

New Staff

Dora Guo (CCC) has joined the Center on Contemporary China as a Research Assistant and Event Coordinator. She earned her BA in Economics at Tsinghua University and an MBA at the Sloane School of Management at MIT.

Vai Lei (EAL) is now a Language Cataloguing Specialist

Nannan Liu (EAL), a published translator, joined the Library as a Senior Bibliographic Specialist. Liu holds a BA in German from Peking University and an MA and DPhil in Translation Studies from the University of Mainz, Germany.

Visitors

Chukwuemeka V. Chukwuemeka, PhD, is a Sugarman Practitioner in Residence at the

Kahneman-Treisman Center for Behavioral Science and Public Policy. He is currently investigating the implications of design on human behavior and specifically using behavioral science tools, epidemiological insights, and architectural background to reimagine the design, development, uses, and management of sanitation spaces and infrastructures in cities. Chukwuemeka obtained his Architecture PhD from KU Leuven in Belgium and an MA in Architecture degree from Hochschule Anhalt (DIA Dessau-Bauhaus), where he graduated with the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Prize.

Lijing Jiang (SCDC) is a Shelby Cullom Davis Center Fellow from John Hopkins. Her topic is "Fish Nations: Species, Technology, and Environments in Asia's Aquacultural Transformation."

Hiroyuki Kikuchi 菊地大樹 (REL) is a visiting scholar at the Department of Religion this fall. Kikuchi is a professor of Japanese history at Tokyo University's Historiographical Institute.

Handi Li 李哈迪 (CCC) is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton University. Starting in the Fall of 2024, Li will join University College London as an Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics. Li's research focuses on information politics and state-society relationships in autocracies. Across various projects, she examines the causes and consequences of transparency and information manipulation. She is also interested in contentious politics and the political economy of development. Li received her PhD in Political Science at Emory University.

Airan Liu 柳皚然 (CCC) is an associate professor at the Center for Social Research, Guanghua School of Management, at Peking University. She received her PhD in Sociology and Public Policy and MA in Statistics from the University of Michigan, where she was also trained at the Population Studies Center. She received her BA in Sociology and Statistics from Peking University. Dr. Liu's main areas of interest are child development, inequality in early life, Asian Americans, and China. Her current work examines how culture and social psychological factors shape social stratification processes in early life and the formation of digital inequality in early life.

Tomo Nishimura (OPR) is a professor in the Department of Economics at Kwansai Gakuin University in Japan. She received her PhD in Economics from the University of Lille, France. She specializes in labor economics. Her research focuses mainly on the impact of working styles on household behavior such as marriage, childbearing, and childcare. In her free time, she enjoys playing jazz piano and a glass of wine with friends.

Likun Wang 汪立坤 (CCC) born in 1994 in Anhui, China, currently is a PhD candidate in Sociology at Renmin University of China. His research centers on contemporary Chinese family change and their effect on individuals, Wang's work seeks to illuminate the impact of changing family structures on personal lives in modern China. Additionally, he possesses a strong enthusiasm for quantitative research methods, with a special interest in the application of computational methods in the social sciences.

Julia Thomas (SCDC) is a Shelby Cullom Davis Center Fellow from the University of Notre Dame. She is doing research on "The Historian's Task in the Anthropocene: Finding Hope in Japan."

Visiting Students/VSRC

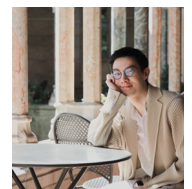
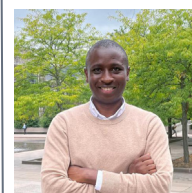
Tingting Chen (SOC) is from Keio University.

Jinyun Lee (EAS) is an undergraduate from Tokyo University.

Xiaojie Shen 沈小杰 (CCC) is a visiting PhD student from Peking University. He received his BA in management with a concentration on demography from Renmin University of China. His research interests intersect family demography and social stratification. His current research project explores college students' marriage attitudes in contemporary China. His work has appeared in Chinese journals such as *Population Research* and the *Chinese Journal of Population Science*.

Sandra Wabnitz (EAS) studied Sinology, History (BA) and Historical Research, Auxiliary Sciences of History and Archival Studies (MA) at the University of Vienna. She is currently a pre-doctoral researcher on the ERC Synergy Grant HistoGenes at the Institute of Austrian Historical Research in Vienna. Her research project "Horse Lords of the Steppe: A Comparison of Latin, Greek, and Chinese Accounts on Steppe Peoples, 4th-9th c." explores and compares the literary discourse on steppe peoples from ethnographic accounts regarding religious beliefs, social hierarchy, marriage customs, gender roles, etc.). (9/1-11/30)

Counterclockwise (FROM TOP LEFT): Nathan Gallant, Wei Peng, Mohan Wang, Xiaoyu Xia, Tae Na Kim, Tomo Nishimura, Chukwuemeka V. Chukwuemeka



The East Asian Studies Program and Department Newsletter introduces the new members of the East Asian Studies community across campus. More details may be found on the individual's departmental websites. We apologize if any names have been inadvertently omitted. If you would like to be on the East Asian Studies mailing list, please send an email to chaoliu@princeton.edu.